

Senate File 26 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 26

BY TAYLOR

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to relocating, establishing, and consolidating
2 county seats.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 331.331 Duties relating to county
2 seats — petition.

3 1. *a.* If a petition meeting the requirements of section
4 331.306 and subsection 5 of this section is filed with the
5 board of supervisors proposing a public measure to relocate
6 a county seat, establish an additional county seat, or
7 consolidate county seats, the board shall direct the county
8 commissioner of elections to submit the question on the
9 public measure to the registered voters of the county.
10 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
11 public measure may only be submitted to the electorate at the
12 general election for the office of president of the United
13 States next following the filing of the petition.

14 *b.* The board shall propose a plan to implement the
15 relocation, establishment, or consolidation within two
16 years, and shall gather information on costs associated
17 with implementing the plan and associated changes to county
18 emergency services.

19 2. *a.* The question to relocate a county seat shall be
20 submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:
21 Shall the county seat for (name of county) be relocated from
22 (name of city serving as county seat) to (name of city named on
23 the petition)?

24 *b.* The question to establish an additional county seat shall
25 be submitted to the electors in substantially the following
26 form:

27 Shall (name of county), with its county seat located at (name
28 of city serving as county seat), establish an additional county
29 seat at (name of city named on the petition)?

30 *c.* The question to consolidate county seats shall be
31 submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

32 Shall the county seats for (name of county) be consolidated
33 from (name of city serving as county seat) and (name of
34 city serving as county seat) to (name of city named on the
35 petition)?

1 to implement the relocation, establishment, or consolidation
2 within two years.

3 The bill requires the county commissioner of elections
4 to submit the public measure to the registered voters at the
5 general election for the office of president of the United
6 States next following the filing of the petition. A public
7 measure to relocate, establish, or consolidate a county seat is
8 adopted if the vote cast in favor is at least 60 percent of the
9 total votes cast for and against the public measure. The board
10 is required to implement its plan to relocate, establish, or
11 consolidate county seats if the public measure is adopted.

12 The bill provides that the notice of election required to
13 be published shall contain a brief description of the proposed
14 relocation, establishment, or consolidation and a summary of
15 information provided by the board of supervisors on costs
16 associated with implementing its plan and associated changes to
17 county emergency services if the measure is adopted.

18 The bill requires a county to have at least one, but not more
19 than two, county seats at any one time and that a county seat
20 must be located within the county. The bill requires that the
21 board of supervisors dismiss a petition as invalid if adoption
22 of the public measure would violate these requirements or if
23 the petition is filed less than 82 days before the next general
24 election for the office of president of the United States.